

AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 108, 135, 138 and 154 as follows:

Claims 1-107 (canceled)

Claim 108 (currently amended): An automated system for reducing risk in payment-based transactions comprising:

- a payment bank subsystem, operated by a payment bank, that processes a payment-based transaction wherein payment is made from an account holder to a ~~Counterparty~~ counterparty, wherein the payment bank subsystem includes a payment queue storing a first instruction authorizing payment from the account holder to the ~~Counterparty~~ counterparty during processing of the transaction; and

- a module, integrated with the payment bank subsystem, that stores at least one user-supplied risk parameter associated with the account holder, and includes a risk filter routine that operates during processing of the transaction to determine whether to selectively reject payment authorized by the first instruction stored in the payment queue based upon the at least one user-supplied risk parameter associated with the ~~Counterparty~~ counterparty;

- wherein said risk filter routine

- automatically generates an available balance for the ~~Counterparty~~ counterparty based upon the at least one user-supplied risk parameter, payments made by the account holder, and payments received by the account holder;

- automatically accesses said first instruction stored in the payment queue;

- automatically determines whether to selectively reject payment authorized by the first instruction based upon the available balance;

- wherein said risk filter routine automatically rejects payment authorized by the first instruction in the event that the amount of payment authorized by the first instruction exceeds the available balance; and

- wherein the risk filter routine automatically returns the first instruction to the payment queue for later re-evaluation.

Claim 109 (previously presented): The automated system of claim 108, wherein the risk filter routine computes the available balance over a given time period based upon payments made by the account holder in the given time period and payments received by the account holder in the given time period.

Claim 110 (previously presented): The automated system of claim 109, wherein the risk filter routine receives user-supplied updates to the at least one user-supplied risk parameter, and updates the available balance to reflect such user-supplied updates.

Claim 111 (previously presented): The automated system of claim 109, wherein the risk filter routine receives updates to payments made by the account holder in the given time period and updates to payments received by the account holder in the given time period, and re-computes the available balance to reflect such updates.

Claim 112 (previously presented): The automated system of claim 111, further comprising a payment confirmation service, and wherein the risk filter routine receives updates to payments made by the account holder and updates to payments received by the account holder through data interchange with the payments confirmation service.

Claim 113 (previously presented): The automated system of claim 108, wherein the module communicates to the payment bank subsystem via an application-to application interface which translates data formats between the module and payment bank subsystem.

Claims 114-127 (canceled)

Claim 128 (previously presented): The automated system of claim 108, wherein said risk filter routine cooperates with other payment processing operated by said payment bank to determine whether to selectively reject payment authorized by the first instruction.

Claim 129 (previously presented): The automated system of claim 108, wherein the risk filter routine cooperates with a domestic payment system operated by said payment bank, such that the first instruction is filtered by said risk filter routine for compliance with a risk profile generated from the at least one user-supplied risk parameter.

Claims 130-134 (canceled)

Claim 135 (currently amended): The automated system of claim 108, wherein the risk filter routine:

receives a user-supplied second instruction that identifies an account holder and ~~Counterparty~~ counterparty; and

in response to receipt of the user-supplied second instruction, suspends all payments from the account holder to the ~~Counterparty~~ counterparty as identified by the second instruction.

Claim 136 (previously presented): The automated system of claim 135, wherein the user-supplied second instruction is generated on a user subsystem and communicated to a central server, which stores the user-supplied second instruction in a data server and forwards the user-supplied second instruction to said module integrated into the payment bank subsystem that executes the risk filter routine.

Claim 137 (previously presented): The automated system of claim 136, wherein a third party executes a third party host application that generates the user-supplied second instruction and communicates the user-supplied second instruction to a user subsystem, which forwards the user-supplied second instruction to the module integrated into the payment bank subsystem via the central server.

Claim 138 (currently amended): The automated system of claim ~~136~~ 137, wherein the risk filter routine triggers communication of notification confirming receipt of the user-supplied second instruction to one or more of the payment bank subsystem, a ~~core~~ data server, a the user subsystem and a third party subsystem.

Claim 139 (previously presented): The automated system of any of claim 135, wherein the account holder comprises a user with a pre-existing account relationship with the payment bank.

Claim 140 (previously presented): The automated system of claim 139, wherein the account holder further comprises a third party, and wherein the user is acting on behalf of the third party.

Claim 141 (previously presented): The automated system of claim 140, wherein said third party executes a third party host application that generates user-supplied instructions and communicates the user-supplied instructions to a user subsystem, which forwards the at least one user-supplied information to the risk filter routine.

Claim 142 (previously presented): The automated system of claim 135, wherein the Counterparty comprises a beneficiary of the payment-based transaction.

Claim 143-153 (canceled)

Claim 154 (currently amended): The automated system of claim 112, wherein updates to the payments made by the ~~Counterparty~~ counterparty and updates to payments received by the ~~Counterparty~~ counterparty comprise Society for Worldwide Inter-bank Financial Transmissions messages.

Claim 155-160 (canceled)